

## The Advocate News

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### Angola rodeo, festival to feature La. musicians

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The Louisiana Music Cavalcade swings into Louisiana State Penitentiary on Saturday to open the annual Angola Prison Spring Rodeo **and Arts and Crafts** Festival.

The rodeo and arts and crafts festival will continue from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Sponsored by the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office, the traveling music festival began a series of weekend stops March 2 **in** Ferriday. An appearance is planned in **Baton** Rouge on April 27 at the Old State Capitol.

Reserved seat tickets for the rodeo and concert by Louisiana musicians are \$10 per person and may be purchased at the gate. The admission fee also **includes** access to the area where inmate-produced arts and crafts items will be on sale.

The Angola Prison Rodeo began in 1965 and is held on each Sunday in October, but Angola Warden Burl Cain last year added rodeo performances to the annual spring arts and crafts sale.

The prison gates will open to visitors at 9 a.m., and the Music Cavalcade will entertain the festival and rodeo crowd from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The **rodeo performances** begin at 1:30 p.m., and the crafts area will be open until 5 p.m.

A variety of food and refreshments will be sold throughout the day.

Scott Madere, a spokesman for Secretary of State Fox McKeithen, said Grammy-winner Freddie Fender initially agreed to headline the Angola leg of the tour.

However, Fender later had to cancel because he is not fully recovered from a January kidney transplant operation, Madere said.

Fender served time in Louisiana prisons for possession of a small amount of marijuana in the early 1960s.

He was **incarcerated** at Angola from April to July 1961 and was paroled from the state prison in DeQuincy in July 1963. Gov. Edwin Edwards later granted Fender a full pardon.

Madere said the tour includes veteran performers as well as rising stars in the Louisiana music scene.

"A lot of people on the Louisiana Music Cavalcade are people you may **not know** but you may know one day," he said.

**The singers** include Mickey and Jack Jones of Denham Springs, Shelli Brown, also of Denham Springs, sisters Pamela Matassa and Amanda Henkel, Margie LeBlanc of New Orleans and Meredith Harris of Columbia.

Out-of-state performers include Memarie of Nashville, Tenn., and formerly of Baskin, and Ha-Ash, the Mexico City duo of Hanna and Ashley Perez, formerly of Lake Charles.

Gene King and the Louisiana Cavalcade Band also will perform.

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